

The two lawyers are David Domenici, 33, son of Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.), and James Forman Jr., 30, namesake of the civil rights activist who presented the 1969 "Black Economic Manifesto," demanding \$500 million in reparations from white churches and synagogues.

Domenici and Forman, who have run study and work programs for youngsters in trouble before, believe too many adolescents are written off early by a D.C. juvenile justice system that seems forever short on solutions.

"We're trying to get kids into the game. They've been locked out. They're not players," Forman said. "They need discipline. They need high standards. They need jobs. One of our goals is to change the vision of where they can go."

It's not just another struggling D.C. program for delinquent youths.

The idea for the school was hatched by Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., a former U.S. attorney for the District, and Holder's friend Reid Weingarten, one of Washington's most prominent white-collar criminal defense lawyers. The first fund-raiser was sponsored by then-Commerce Secretary Ron Brown before his death in an April 1996 plane crash.

Another fund-raiser—a \$100-a-plate gathering March 10—drew poet Maya Angelou and a constellation of D.C. power players, including Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, White House Chief of Staff Erskine B. Bowles, former U.S. Senator Robert J. Dole and a half-dozen senators.

See Forever has a \$500,000 budget this year and plans to spend \$2 million in coming years to expand the school to 100 children, including space for 20 boarders. In September, it will become a D.C. charter school—The Maya Angelou Public Charter School—which will mean an allocation of \$6,000 in D.C. tax money per student and the authority to award high school diplomas.

One D.C. Superior Court judge, who asked not to be identified, calls See Forever "the only program I have complete faith in." Such words are high praise for a largely untested program, but students echo the sentiment.

"These streets are only going to lead you to getting locked up. Or you'll probably die," Sherti, now 16, said. "Today, I'm not all the way all right, but I'll be all right for the future. I know what I'm capable of doing."

For that, Sherti credits the adults at See Forever, where the student-teacher ratio is 5 to 1 and more than 60 volunteers come each week to tutor the teenagers individually. The 12-month school calendar and 10½-hour day are not for the faint of heart, and some students drop out early.

The school is open only to students who have been entangled in the D.C. court system, but the seriousness of their situations varies. What gets each teenager in the door at See Forever, after interviews and recommendations, is that school's assessment that the youngster can be saved.

Twenty percent of the students, Forman estimates, were "factually and legally innocent," and the cases were dropped. An additional 50 percent were picked up for crimes such as joy riding, fighting or theft. The remaining 30 percent faced more serious charges, including armed robbery.

In a typical tightly structured day, the teenagers are kept occupied from 9:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. They eat two meals a day cooked by other students in a catering kitchen. Each student gets lots of individual attention and is tutored every night. Some stay until 11 p.m. because they prefer the place to home.

Study subjects are broken into five 80-minute classes. Core subjects are math,

English, social studies and computer. Electives have included a layman's law class taught by two Pentagon lawyers, an art class led by Domenici's sister Helen, and classes in jazz appreciation and public speaking.

All students do internships part of the year. The school requires that they be paid \$130 a week, and the money goes into bank accounts and Merrill Lynch investment funds that they learn to manage. Each student also works in a moneymaking catering service called Untouchable Taste, run by the school.

A guiding principle is that job skills and schoolwork are connected. See Forever aims to be broader than either a conventional school or a vocational school by combining the best elements of each. If the skills are useful, the reasoning goes, jobs will be available and the students will stay motivated.

"Schools dump kids with behavioral problems, learning problems, those who've been locked up," said Forman, a Yale Law School graduate on leave from the D.C. Public Defender Service. "D.C. taxpayers are spending money that is being wasted on programs that aren't working."

Judges and advocates alike acknowledge that options are painfully limited for children in the District's court system. D.C. delinquents are offered few broad services close to home. Some are sent to distant states in search of programs that work at costs that exceed \$100,000 a year per child.

Some of Washington's most violent teenagers, and many who are not, end up at the city's Oak Hill Youth Center, a widely perceived failure that has operated under court supervision since 1986. In November, Department of Human Services Director Jearline Williams and the D.C. financial control board declared a state of emergency at Oak Hill because of poor conditions.

See Forever, with room for only about 20 students, can serve only a fraction of the needs of a city where supervision or jail beds were required for 3,800 youths in 1996. The goal is to set a tone, create a model. As Holder said, "If it works, maybe it can be copied."

Angelou, taking the stage at the March 10 fund-raiser, told the students of her own life.

"Somebody would've looked at me as an illiterate or semilliterate black girl on the dirt roads of Arkansas and said, 'Never!'" Angelou said, adding ebulliently, "Look at me now!"

She sang a Negro spiritual, "Don't You Let Nobody Turn You Around," and told students, "Keep on walking, keep on talking, keep on learning, keep on burning, keep on laughing."

Jerome is feeling good about things. In an essay, he recalled how difficult his work at See Forever seemed at first. He said he got mad and sometimes skipped his schoolwork. But then he made a discovery: He could do it.

"Now that I have finally made a change, I want to look back on everyone who told me I was stupid or dumb," Jerome said. "I want to see if they are still on the street selling drugs. I want to ask them. 'Who's dumb now?'"

#### IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA COLBERT ROBINSON

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, today I would like to mourn the passing of a great woman and pay tribute to her legacy. On March 11, one of the leading lights of the Charleston theater community, Patricia Colbert Robinson, was extinguished. Mrs. Robinson was a well-known and beloved Charleston au-

thor, poet, playwright, and actress. Together with her husband, Emmett E. Robinson Jr., and fellow actress Dorothy D'Anna, she ran the Footlight Players, Charleston's community theater group, for almost three decades. In addition to acting in many of the Players' productions, Mrs. Robinson helped raise money and organized publicity for their events.

Patricia Robinson was a woman of many talents, and her interests encompassed all the arts. She once won first place in the Poetry Society of South Carolina spring forum. In addition to her poems, she wrote or co-authored seven novels. She also wrote for the Charleston News and Courier and The Charleston Evening Post.

Mrs. Robinson set many of her stories in Charleston and portrayed the city with a fine eye for detail and much love. Surprisingly, she was not a native Southerner. She was born and reared in Pittsburgh, but moved to Charleston in 1944. Nonetheless, she loved the city as ardently as its longest residents and always exhibited a great passion for its architecture, history, and people. Charlestonians reciprocated by embracing her as a neighbor and honorary native daughter.

With the passing of Patricia Colbert Robinson, Charleston has lost one of its most beloved literary and artistic figures. The people of Charleston have lost a beloved friend who entertained them on the stage and on paper, and who reminded them in beautiful prose of the rich history and beauty of their city. She will be much missed.●

#### ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senate documents be printed in the usual number: Senate Document 99-33, Senate Document 98-29, and Senate Document 97-20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1998

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, and immediately following the prayer the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 1768, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I further ask unanimous consent that from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. the Senate stand in recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.